

# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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## DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

<http://dmh.lacounty.info>

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September 28, 2010

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Marvin J. Southard, D.S.W.  
Director of Mental Health

SUBJECT: **ADVANCE NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO ENTER INTO SOLE  
SOURCE CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS WITH OCEAN PARK  
COMMUNITY CENTER**

This memo is to comply with the Board of Supervisors' Policy Manual, Section 5.100, Sole Source Contract, by notifying the Board of our need to initiate a Sole Source contract. It is the Department of Mental Health's (DMH) intent to enter into contract negotiations with Ocean Park Community Center (OPCC) to provide housing and supportive residential mental health and medical services for twenty-five (25) of the most vulnerable and chronically homeless mentally ill adults living in Santa Monica.

This proposal is an expansion of OPCC's current two-year pilot program funded by Supervisor Yaroslavsky that focused on housing for forty (40) of the most vulnerable chronically mentally ill homeless individuals in Santa Monica. OPCC was able to leverage additional funding from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation to expand the pilot to include an additional thirty (30) vulnerable chronically homeless individuals. This proposed expansion, funded by Supervisor Yaroslavsky, would add twenty-five (25) individuals, bringing the total number of individuals served to ninety-five (95).

OPCC will employ a multi-disciplinary and integrated team approach, including outreach based at Safe Haven and Daybreak (two projects of OPCC serving chronically homeless men and women) for the purpose of maximizing the engagement process for individuals who are already familiar with OPCC and are receiving limited services at Safe Haven or Daybreak. The approach will be an empowerment model combining best practices from Assertive Community Treatment, the Community Model and Housing First, honoring client choice and "going the journey" with each individual from building trust and engagement to community re-integration and housing retention services.

OPCC is uniquely qualified to provide these services because it is already providing identical services through the pilot program referenced above. Established in 1963,

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"*

OPCC is a network of housing and services that empowers people to rebuild their lives by providing assistance to low-income, homeless and at-risk youth, adults and families, battered women and their children, and people living with mental illness. OPCC is a community-supported non-profit 501(c)3 organization serving the Westside of Los Angeles County, in which staff, volunteers, and clients work together with mutual respect to address the effects of poverty, abuse, neglect, and discrimination. A DMH contractor since 1989, OPCC has multiple contracts with the Department, including the provision of People Assisting the Homeless, basic living shelter services, outreach, and Mental Health Services Act supportive housing services, serving chronically homeless men and women.

The Third Supervisorial District has allocated \$446,960 County General Fund from discretionary funds approved by the Board of Supervisors on April 4, 2006, as part of the County's Homeless Prevention Initiative to fund homeless services for the two-year OPCC expansion.

Unless otherwise instructed by a Board office within two weeks, DMH will proceed with entering into contract negotiations with OPCC, working with County Counsel and the Chief Executive Office.

MJS:TB:MM:mm

c: Health Deputies  
Chief Executive Office  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
County Counsel  
Contracts Development and Administration  
Executive Staff  
Mary Marx